



Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Agricultural Summary

Utah had lower than average precipitation throughout the month of February. Producers are beginning to get very concerned about the potential of facing a drought this coming summer. The mild and dry winter has been beneficial to most livestock producers thus far. Livestock are in good condition across the state, and farmers are anticipating planting crops early this spring. Producers are hoping for late winter or early spring snow storms to help increase mountain snowpack and bring it within normal levels.

Livestock Summary

Due to the relatively mild weather conditions, producers in **Box Elder County** were able to avoid feeding supplemental hay until just recently. Intermittent rains have kept the soil moisture in relatively good shape. Calving has begun in the county; however the majority of calving will occur during March and April. So far, there have been very few calving problems. **Cache County** producers have enjoyed the rather mild winter. Sheep and cattle have done extremely well. Lambing and calving has begun; most young animals are in good condition. Calving in **Carbon County** has also begun and livestock are in good condition. Hay stocks look adequate. More moisture is needed in the mountains to improve summer range conditions. Many producers in **Duchesne County** have started to calve and lamb. The moderate weather has improved calving conditions as well as reduced the amount of supplemental feed needed. Livestock prices are very good, but the cost of inputs continues to rise which has a limiting affect on profits. Lambing and calving in **Beaver County** are going well. Ranges and mountains are quite dry. Most beef producers in **Garfield and Kane Counties** have begun feeding supplemental hay to livestock. Producers have enjoyed the mild winter weather which has improved calf survival. The area is in need of substantial snowfall to ward off the looming drought.

Field Crops Summary

Box Elder County producers are concerned with the rising fuel prices which also translate to higher fertilizer, chemical, and equipment costs. Farmers are making plans for spring planting; farmers may get an early start this year due to the lack of snow cover. Water supplies for the Bear River Valley are adequate. The water level in Bear Lake is nearly at capacity. **Cache County** growers are concerned about the potential of winter kill in winter wheat and barley because of the lack of an insulating covering of snow over the crops. The valleys in **Duchesne County** remain dry; some plowing and other field work has begun due to the absence of frost or snow on the ground. **Carbon and Emery counties** are already facing drought conditions. The mild winter has not generated enough snow to supply an adequate snowpack this year. Fields in **Uintah County** are nearly frost free. Field work will begin soon.